
ESR CONSULTATION – OUTCOME

31 August 2016

We would like to thank those who returned comments following our consultation regarding the Labtests and Northland Pathology restriction of ESR testing to specific medical conditions. Your feedback is appreciated and valued.

In general the feedback was very positive. We did however have a few referrers asking for chronic osteomyelitis to be added to the approved criteria. We acknowledge this can be useful in a few specific cases where the CRP is negative and the ESR is positive however we would like to caution referrers that the ESR is highly variable and non-specific throughout the course of osteomyelitis and a negative result should not deter the clinician from further investigation/timely treatment based on their clinical suspicion. “Bone and joint infections” and “Osteomyelitis” will be added to the list of approved conditions set out in the consultation document.

The restriction will come into effect on the 3rd October 2016.

1. ESR's without relevant clinical details will not be processed.
2. Requesting clinicians will need to ensure that the indication is clearly printed under the clinical details section of the request form to ensure that the test is processed.

Appropriate clinical details (at diagnosis or follow up) include:

- Paediatric inflammatory bowel disease: ulcerative colitis/Crohn's disease
- Systemic lupus erythematosus (SLE)
- Connective tissue disorder
- Vasculitis/arteritis
- Temporal (Giant cell) arteritis
- Juvenile idiopathic arthritis
- Rheumatoid arthritis
- Polymyalgia Rheumatica
- Kawasaki Disease
- Rheumatic fever
- Hodgkin lymphoma
- Suspected prosthetic joint inflammation
- Bone / joint infection
- Osteomyelitis
- Any other condition when pre-approved by a Labtests haematologist

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